Modernisation of Naval Shipyards

2542. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that modernisation of Naval Shipyards is essential for indigenisation of Navy and enable the country to occupy a prominent place in the world;

(b) if so, the details of the programme carried out by the Ministry for modernizing the Naval Shipyards; and

(c) the details of reasons for slow pace of modernizing?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Modernisation and development of Naval shipyards in relation to indigenisation of the Indian Navy is an ongoing process dictated primarily by the threat perceptions and prevailing external strategic/security environment as also the emerging technologies. With increased emphasis on induction of high technology naval platforms, the Naval shipyards are programmed for periodic upgradation in technology to achieve greater indigenisation of the Navy.

Casualties of Jawans due to explosions in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

†2543. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Jawans have died and sustained injuries as a result of explosions during the last six months in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the number of Jawans who suffered casualties and injured;

(c) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the above explosions; and

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.